

Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 STR-01 OMB-01

CEA-01 COME-00 INT-05 OES-03 SAB-01 SAM-01 NIC-01

/081 W

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R 240732Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2474

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, ENGR, BTRA, SY

SUBJECT: EXXON INTEREST IN SYRIA

REF: DAMASCUS 0056

1. SUMMARY: AFTER TIME, INC. "NEWSTOUR" VISIT WITH
PRESIDENT ASAD, EXXON CHAIRMAN JAMIESON GAVE PRESIDENT
HIS PERSONAL ASSURANCES OF EXXON INTEREST IN SYRIA
AND PROMISED TO HAVE EXXON REPS VISIT SYRIA SOON.
EMBASSY LOOKS FORWARD TO SUCH VISIT AND WOULD
APPRECIATE ADVANCE NOTICE. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING 135 MINUTE TIME, INC. "NEWSTOUR" VISIT
WITH SYRIAN PRESIDENT ASAD EVENING JAN 21, PRESIDENT
SPOKE WARMLY OF WELCOME TO AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN IN
SYRIA AND SYRIAN DESIRE THAT AMERICAN COMPANIES COME
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TO SYRIA AND COOPERATE IN DEVELOPMENT OF COUNTRY.

IN PARTICULAR, HE INVITED MORE AMERICAN FIRMS TO DISCUSS WORKING IN DEVELOPMENT OF SYRIA'S PETROLEUM RESOURCES, AND HE ESTIMATED 1975 CRUDE PRODUCTION WOULD REACH TEN MILLION M.T. HE ALSO STRESSED NEED FOR MORE CONTACT WITH AMERICANS TO CORRECT MISUNDERSTANDINGS ABOUT SYRIA.

3. AS "NEWSTOUR" GROUP TOOK ITS LEAVE, EXXON CHAIRMAN J. KENNETH JAMIESON WAS LAST TO DEPART AND HE STOPPED FOR SHORT PERSONAL CHAT WITH ASAD (AMBASSADOR AND ECONOFF ALSO PRESENT). JAMIESON SAID HIS COMPANY HAD ONLY RECENTLY HEARD ABOUT SYRIA'S INTERESTS IN HAVING AMERICAN OIL COMPANIES WORK IN DEVELOPMENT OF SYRIAN OIL PRODUCTION AND HE PROMISED ASAD THAT EXXON WOULD SOON SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO DAMASCUS TO DISCUSS SUCH MATTERS WITH SARG PETROLEUM MINISTRY. ASAD VISABLY PLEASED WITH THIS NEWS, WARMLY THANKED JAMIESON (IN ENGLISH) AND SAID EXXON REPS WOULD BE VERY WELCOME.

4. IF APPROPRIATE, REQUEST DEPARTMENT AND BEIRUT RELAY THIS INFORMATION TO APPROPRIATE EXXON REPS, ENCOURAGING THEM TO FOLLOW UP ON JAMIESON'S COMMITMENT TO PRESIDENT. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ADVANCE NOTICE OF EXXON REPS FORTHCOMING VISIT.
MURPHY

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